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Application No.: 10/564,763

Docket No.: 4590-479

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 24-45 are pending in the application. Claims 24, 28-30, 32, 34-36 and 39-43 have been amended, claims 26 and 27 have been cancelled and new claims 46 and 47 have been added.

Applicant appreciatively notes that claims 27-35, 39, and 43-45 are objected to as being dependent on a rejection base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 24-26, 35, 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Nabetani et al. (US 6,219,231). Claims 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nabetani et al.

Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 26 and 27 and thus clearly represents allowable subject matter.

Each of claims 32, 34, 35, 39 and 43 have been amended to incorporate all features of the base claim 24 (as previously on file) and any intervening claims, and thus each of those claims also clearly represents allowable subject matter.

All claims in the application are now either independent claims in a form which the Examiner has indicated he considers to be allowable, or are dependent on those independent claims. Thus, none of the objections under 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 raised in the Office Action are applicable, and it is respectfully submitted that the application is in order for allowance. Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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